

**Interagency Coordinating Council
April 28, 2015
Meeting Minutes**

ICC MEMBERS

Susan Starrett, *Chair*
Connie Williams, *Vice Chair*
Pam Reuther
Heather Alford
Anne Meduri, MD
Robin David (*Proxy for
Linda Nemes*)
Heidi Beck
Bruce Orr
Hazel Cole
Kate Tullis
Ann Woolfolk

INTERESTED PERSONS

Nancy Widdoes (OEL)
Dr. Devona Williams (OEL)
JoEllen Kimmey (CDW)
Pat Maichle (DDC)
Beth Inter (DOE)
Patty Miller (EBSEI)
Dennis Rubino (DSU)
Leah Jones Woodall (DPH)
Lisa Savino (BAYADA Pediatrics)
Kathleen Nutley (Nurses 'n Kids)
Nancy Condon (DuPont Hospital)
Candace Shetzler (A Child's Potential)
Mary Agnes Rutkowski (BAYADA Pediatrics)

STAFF

Carol Ann Schumann
Peggy Miller
Inita Joyner
Freda Collins
Robert Bordley

Participated via conference call ~ Mary Moore, Division of Child Mental Health/Proxy for Susan Cycyk; Susan Mateja, Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance; Dr. Carlos Duran, Christiana Care Health System.

Meeting Called to Order and Approval of ICC Minutes

Susan Starrett, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm. Meeting participants were introduced.

Heidi Beck moved to approve the ICC minutes. Pam Reuther seconded the motion. All in favor.

Update from the Office of Early Learning

Nancy Widdoes, Deputy Director, Office of Early Learning gave an update on the *Early Learning Challenge Grant* which is almost finish; they are most of the way into year four which will be their last year. The grant is set to end in December 2015 and because of a slow start they do anticipate being able to have sufficient funds to request a no cost extension which would take them to a period of January through June 2016 and on the next day the new state fiscal year 2017 budget starts. Lately they have been focusing more on sustainability and working with the various state agencies that are involved, Department of Education (DOE), Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS), and the Department of Services for Children Youth and Their Families (DSCYF) to consider what budgeting issues they may want to develop and put forward as part of their state budget request to sustain key parts of the early learning challenge work. Recently there were a series of seven stake focus holder groups across the state that were participating in at least one of those focus groups. There was also an online survey in which more than

550 responses were received; this information is being condensed into a report for all of the agencies that participated as well as the Office of Early Learning. Nancy said they are on track and meeting their exceeding goals with the early learning challenge which includes:

Goal 1 –is about ***Healthy Children*** -Promoting Developmental Screening of young children primarily working with the health provider community in which the Division of Public Health DPH was the lead partner. Nancy said many more screens are being done using an instrument which is the Best Practice; Outreach to Families through healthy Ambassadors which is primarily done through DPH and also additional Ambassadors were funded through this grant; to work in the communities to identify the needs of families with young children or pregnant woman who may have special needs; and link them to the existing services, which is going very well. Nancy also mentioned that the ***Help Me Grow 211 Helpline*** is doing very well as more people are realizing that it is a great resource to be connected to services in their communities. The grant has also funded two call center specialists in the area of early childhood for the 211 line.

Goal 2 -is all about ***STARS*** in which there is: Professional development; lots of financial incentives; programs to come into *STARS* like the infrastructure fund for technology or physical plant improvements that are needed; and several Infant incentives which have been very well received by providers in the communities. As of now there are nearly five hundred *STARS* programs that are serving the Birth to Five populations. Nancy said *Growing Stars and Moving Children with High Needs into High Quality Programs* were the two basic deliverables on this federal grant. Fifty-eight percent of children with special needs are now in high quality programs.

Goal 3 –has to do with ***DelTeams*** in which there are now twenty-one of them and ***Delaware Readiness Teams*** which are community teams generally around high needs geographic area with the low performing elementary school and includes, Birth to Five program men and women; Kindergarten Teachers, Elementary School Principles and Assistant Principles; Business men and women. Both of these teams are made up of a pretty diverse group of people. They each also develop their own action plan. This goal also included work with the Institutions of Higher Education including, *Wilmington University, Delaware State University* and others who worked with an expert consultant to review the curriculum they have and the course work that they offer for early childhood; to better align it with the early learning foundations that DE has set up to guide this sort of work with young children; and also the workforce confidence's.

Goal 4 –is the overall ***Grant Management*** which includes the Family Outreach that is being done all year, through events being held throughout the state to inform parents about the importance of quality early learning for young children and how they can use Stars as a guide to find great programs for their child and family. This goal also includes ***Great Starts Delaware*** which is designed with and for families with young children to be a support for them. For more information please visit: greatstartsdelaware.com.

Nancy said they also do the monthly early childhood **Enews** and let the ICC know that if they are interested in being on that distribution list or if they have any questions to email her at nancy.widdoes@state.de.us

Nancy briefly talked about (*PEDS*) *Parents Evaluation of Developmental Status Toolkit* for physicians, family practitioners and pediatricians. PEDS is a tool for detecting children at risk for delays in growth and behavioral problems and it has been very well received based on the satisfaction information that was received from the providers. Copies of will also be made available even after the grant ends. The developer Dr. Francis Glasgow's website to access the toolkit is pedstest.com

Family Engagement Presentation

Dr. Devona Williams, Parent Outreach and Workforce Development Consultant, Office of Early Learning (OEL) gave an update on what the Office of Early Learning is doing in regards to family engagement and in the community. Devona gave an overview of the type of work that she does with the parents in the community along with a sampling of the kind of information that she shares with them in reference to the DE Stars program. Devona said some of the work she does in the community usually starts with a story to the parents in order to get them interested because parents need to hear why this should matter to them. She gives information about her own situations that may be stressful; one example being, when she was looking for a daycare center for her child; how hard it was to find one near her job for her child to attend. She said parents do not have to worry about things like that anymore because of DE Stars.

Strategies for reaching parents in the community consist of: *Building connections-meeting them where they are; Understanding how parents receive information and what they use to make decisions about Early Learning; Simplifying the message in outreach; Giving presentations which break down information; For advocacy- giving them reasons to advocate; what's in it for them and how have they benefited; Getting them to tell their story-testimonials.*

DE STARS is high quality; places where children learn and thrive; evaluation by early learning experts and continuous improvement. The program works closely with families to create a program where children can learn, in a place that's safe, inspiring and fun. One way to get the parents interested in this program would be to let them know that Stars are Brain Builders and babies start learning the moment they're born; also the DE Stars programs work closely with families to create a program where your child can learn, in a place that's safe inspiring and fun. Four reasons to support Stars would be *-Better outcomes for children; School and life success; Stronger and better communities and future workforce.*

What the Office of Early Learning is doing with the DE Stars and Parent Advocacy program is with the Challenge Grant and they are working on *Goal four: Sustain early learning system development and service improvements; Strategy two: Engage community leaders, including parents, as informed advocates for early learning; Objective one:*

Engage parents in advocacy efforts to influence public policy makers on the value of early learning through DE Stars.

How DE Stars Work:

- Provides a quick guide to the best learning programs.
- Reflect the hard work a program has done to teach and nurture children.
- Accepted programs earn up to five stars based on standards.
- Programs are easy to find
- The state's Purchase of Care available for many families
- Let the Stars be your guide!

Enrollment in Stars is currently at 70 percent of Centers participating and 20 percent of Family Child Care. Focus on Quality Tiers for Stars- goal is to increase the numbers of programs at each Star level and continue to increase children with high needs in these programs.

Devona briefly talked about Early Learning *Advocacy Day* which is scheduled for May 6, 2015. The goal is to have individual group activities to influence legislators about the importance of DE Stars and investment in early learning. Devona will be leading the "Rally" this year and the theme is Early Learning: We Care, We Need, Our Future! Devona said last year about 250 people attended Advocacy Day and this year she hopes to have at least 350 people attend; she said there are parents, educators, business leaders and partners and does not just consist of one group; it is representing the broad community which benefits from early learning.

Advocacy Day consist of: Engaging parents to participate through presentations and activities for children; Promoting to parents through DelTeam, DE Stars, Ambassadors and United Way RTV; Articles in Enews, DelTeams; Advocacy training, speaking at Rally, testimony before the General Assembly and meeting with legislators. Please see handout for more strategy information and also contacts/websites.

Handouts given~ *DE STARS pamphlet; Early Learning Advocacy Day Activity Booklet; Early Childhood Advocacy Day Flyer*

Birth to Three Updates: APR/SSIP Submission, Public Hearings and New/Revised Policies

Carol Ann Schumann gave an update on Public Hearings that were held in reference to the programs annual ***State Federal Grant Application***. There were two hearings held, one in New Castle, Delaware on February 26, 2015 in which Bruce Orr, ICC Advocate and Joanne Berni, BAYADA Pediatrics were the only two people to attend and had no comments at that time; the second hearing was held in Kent County, Delaware on March 2, 2015 and other than the *Child Development Watch* staff coming in to take a look at the policies, there were no additional comments. Carol Ann added that with the exception of the *System of Payments* all of our policies have been submitted to the Federal Government for final approval.

Carol Ann also added that the *(APR) Annual Performance Report* was submitted and there is a week of clarification whereas the Federal Government can ask questions or raise any concerns about the grant application; We were asked to change the targets on *1 of the Child Find* and *1 of the Child Outcomes* Indicators. This change had to be made because our targets were lower than our 2007 baseline. Carol Ann stated that Birth to Three would have liked to have had a discussion with ICC before changing the targets; however the changes had to be done within that week. Through further discussions with the Federal Government we were told, we can change our baseline year and also change any of our targets. We decided to set new targets which can be adjusted at any time as long as there is justification; and over the course of the next year we will bring the data back to ICC.

Carol Ann stated that the new system that the Federal Government has does not currently have a way to print out the entire APR. They are now working to fix the problem and as soon as it is possible we will have it available on the Birth to Three website to printout.

Carol Ann briefly mentioned that Birth to Three have also submitted the (SSIP) State Systemic Improvement Plan. Carol Ann gave thanks to everyone who had responded to our request for implementation teams. Birth to Three sent out a “survey monkey” to find out who was interested in working on which activity; there were responses received to fill each of the committees and they will be up and running soon. More information will be shared as we move forward into the next year.

Early Head Start Grant

Heidi Beck, Director, New Directions Early Head Start went over a presentation handout about (EHS) First State Delaware Early Head Start Grant. Heidi introduced Beth Inter whom is the newly hired Project Director for the *First State DE Early Head Start Grant* and who will now be ICC’s contact for this project. Heidi clarification of her own role in this particular project which is to provide some technical assistance to the state as they are putting together their own Early Head Start Project. Heidi said there is also a specific role play in New Castle County in Family Childcare and their center based programs that will be partnering to provide the services.

Heidi went over the Scope and Design of the EHS which *-provides early, continuous, intensive and comprehensive child development and family support services that will enhance the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of participation children; Ensure that the level of services provided to families responds to their needs and circumstances; Promote positive parent-child interactions; provide services to parents to support their role as parents; Ensure that children with documented behavioral problems receive appropriate screening and referral; Ensure formal linkages and coordination with other programs in the State, local Head Start programs, other local providers of early childhood education and providers of early intervention services; and Implement a systematic procedure for transitioning children.*

First State DE EHS Proposal Mission -First State Delaware: Early Head Start Partnership Grant will improve Delaware's infant-toddler infrastructure while building high quality providers that will result in healthy young children with positive outlooks towards learning, parents with increased confidence in their role as their child's support for growth and development and families who are on their way to self-sufficiency.

The grant, funded January 2015 for five years; 18 month implementation process; Serving children and families within 6 months; Focusing on dual language children, children with disabilities in addition to children living in poverty, through partnerships with center and family child care providers. One of 234 grantees, one of six state grants and 203 grantees (86%) already operate EHS programs.

Heidi briefly went over the *Four Goals* of the EHS grant which are:

1. Establish partnership with child care providers to enhance and expand access to high quality, comprehensive services for infants and toddlers and their families.
2. Expand the highly qualified infant-toddler workforce with teachers who are well-versed in relationship-based techniques that support children's school readiness.
3. Create providers that serve as models of excellence that utilize research-based best practice, are models of inclusion and can be developed as mentors for other community child care providers.
4. Complete research and evaluation of the piloted state systems to support FSD implementation to inform FSD's future design and scale-up.

The Next Steps would be to Hire Project Manager, Develop Agreements with Partners, Develop and Implement POC Contract Agreements, Develop technical assistance plans with each agency and Develop professional development plans with each agency. Please see handout for more information.

Handout given~ *First State Early Head Start Partnership Grant pamphlet*

Maternal Child Health Title V Needs Assessment Update

Leah Jones Woodall, MPA, Section Chief, Family Health Systems, Division of Public Health along with Kate Tullis, PhD, Public Health Program Administrator talked about the Maternal Child Health Title V Needs Assessment process of a five year planning process that sets the priorities for Maternal Child Health together with their partners. Leah added that 234 grantees were awarded grants for this partnership across the nation; and 6 of those were state grants. Delaware is 1 of 6 states to put forth a grant for *Early Head Start Partnerships* and 1 of 31 new grantees in Early Head Start. Leah said the Family Health System section is one of eight sections within the Division of Public Health and they focus on the continuing of health starting with preconception care. They also support prenatal post-partum, infant health, child health and adolescent health.

Leah gave a little background information on the Title V Block Grant which was established in the year 1935 and is now undergoing a very large transformation. Leah said the year 1989 was the last time that they got to revisit the structure of the grant. Title V envisions a nation where all mothers, children, and youth, including CSHCN, and their families are healthy and thriving. Its mission is to improve the health and well-

being of the nation's mothers, infants, children and youth, including children and youth with special health care needs, and their families.

Title V in Delaware is housed in Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Family Health Systems Section. Current Delaware MCH priorities for the years 2010–2015 are: *Infant mortality; low birth weight and pre-term births; obesity among kids and teens; obesity among women of child-bearing age; unintentional injury and mortality; teen smoking; oral health; early identification and intervention for developmental delays; coordination and support for organizations serving CYSHCN and Health disparities among CYSHCN.*

Title V is being transformed at the national level, in order to: *tell a more cohesive and comprehensive Title V story; demonstrate vital leadership role of Title V programs in assuring and advancing state public health systems and responding to changes in the health and health care environment; assure that state and national MCH priority needs are "drivers" for state reporting in needs assessment, selection of national performance measures, and development of evidence-based strategies.* Michael Lu provides an overview of major changes at the following website. <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/blockgrant/> You can also find information about population domains which include: Maternal/Woman's Health, Perinatal/Infant Health, Children, Adolescents/Young Adults, Children with Special Health Care Needs and Cross Cutting or Life Course.

The Title V Needs Assessment purpose: Identify MCH population needs -*summary of MCH strengths/needs, successes, challenges and gaps for population health domains; Assess Title V program capacity -organizational structure, agency capacity, MCH workforce development and capacity; Foster partnership, collaboration and coordination –family/consumer engagement and leadership, coordination with other MCHB, federal, state and local MCH investments;*

Outputs (By July 2015): *Concise summary of the NA process and findings; Identification of 7-10 state priorities for MCH; Selection of 8 national performance measures that link to priorities (at least 1/population domain); Development of 5 state specific performance measures that link to priorities.*

Aligning and Maximizing Efforts: Many needs assessment and strategic planning efforts are going on throughout Delaware.

Next Steps: MCH will be holding a Strategic Planning Session to formulate a clear vision and path forward in Delaware for the CYSHCN population.

Please see handout or visit the website provided, for more detailed information including Title V Funding requirements, National Priority Areas, National Performance Measures and Opportunities to Provide Input.

Handout given~ *DE Title V Maternal and Child Health Needs Assessment pamphlet*

Final Thoughts: Announcements, Comments & News

Joint Finance Committee (JFC) -Susan Starrett announced that since the last ICC meeting the Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS), Division of Management Services (DMS) held its *Joint Finance Committee (JFC) Hearings* to talk about the *FY 2016 budget*.

During the administration presentations for the JFC, parents, children and all other interested parties were able to speak about the Child Development Watch program. Susan said she was in attendance as well Hazel Cole also Pam Reuther attended along with a former CDW participant whom Susan said gave a fantastic testimony; one other parent gave a presentation as well. Also, Delaware Representative, Melanie Smith has a child receiving early intervention services and had nothing but fantastic things to say about CDW and the early intervention services within Delaware. Susan said she herself as well as others gave very positive testimonies about CDW/Early Intervention Services.

Susan said the JFC asked lots of important questions and was very interested in hearing from Division of Management Services (DMS) and learning more detailed information about *programs, statistics, are there enough services, who is being serviced, and is there enough funding*. Answers to any questions asked by the committee were provided by Rosanne Griff-Cabelli, Social Services Chief Administrator, DMS, Planning, Coordination and Quality Control Unit. Susan said the committee was very engaged in the conversation.

Early Childhood Advocacy Day -Susan also announced that the Delaware Early Childhood Council is sponsoring the Early Childhood Advocacy Day which is May 6, 2015. This is a day of training, lunch, networking, legislative meetings and also a rally for educators, parents, business and community leaders. Susan added that this will be a great time for anyone who is in attendance to talk about early childhood education and services.

ICC Agenda -Susan mentioned how the Birth to Three staff does a great job with helping to put together the agendas for each of the ICC meetings; and they are always looking for help figuring out what type of presentations or discussions to have at the meetings. Susan asked the ICC for their input on what type of discussions they would like to have going forward; they were informed to email any of the staff members or Susan herself at Starrett623@gmail.com with suggestions before the next scheduled meeting; and added that we will try to get back on track with having *Parent Presentations* for our meetings.

ICC Critical Priorities -Bruce Orr, Executive Member asked what the burning issue was for ICC; Pam Reuther, Executive Member responded that parent participation is a critical issue right now. Bruce suggested that the *ICC Executive Committee* be brought back together to meet and discuss any critical priorities and then have that discussion at the next meeting, scheduled for July 2015. Bruce said hopefully we can come up with a solution on how to recruit family members or families; because our families are aging out and they are a critical component of our organization.

Senate Bill 58 reproduced for the *Newborn Screening Program* in Delaware. DE is one of the first states in the nation to start screening back in the year 1963. If you have free time and thoughts, you can write to your state representative to let them know what you think about the new screening program.

Susan Mateja, Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (DMMA) gave her thoughts on the meeting starting with how she would like to make sure that whatever poor measures and qualities that we are doing within these measures are going to actually align with what we are doing currently within Medicaid and Public Health for funding which she feels will be critical. Susan also added, as far as the importance of connecting with early childhood development and going out into the actual program area, we are connected with DOE, DE State and U of DE. Susan said if we are able to take some of our individuals that were trying to teach, it would be great to get them involved in this type of fantastic program and that would be a great benefit for all of Head Start; *from the Family to Community to School*, she feels that the parents will get more involved.

Hazel Cole, Parent Information Center (PIC) mentioned that flyers pertaining to upcoming events and workshops sponsored by PIC were available at the ICC meeting information table.

Adjournment

Bruce Orr moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:00pm. Pam Reuther seconded.

Future Meetings

July 28, 2015

DE Technical and Community College, Terry Campus

Corporate Training Center, Room 400A

Dover, DE 19901

October 27, 2015

DE Technical and Community College, Terry Campus

Corporate Training Center, Room 400A

Dover, DE 19901

For additional information or copies of information provided at ICC meetings, please contact Inita Joyner @ 302-255-9134 or Inita.Joyner@state.de.us

Documents may also be found on the Birth to Three website:

<http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dms/epqc/birth3/directry.html>